

2 February 1967

# Embassy Bombers Said Known To CIA

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — If the police agencies of the United States want to find the bombers who conspired to set off simultaneous explosions in the Yugoslav embassies in Washington and Ottawa and the Yugoslav consulates in New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Toronto, they can do so in short order.

The reason, is, first, because it is impossible to stage such a coast-to-coast conspiracy without involving a large number of Yugoslav expatriates; second because these expatriates are well known to the CIA and the FBI, and from time to time have been in their employ.

Whether or not the bombers are apprehended and brought to trial will test, in the eyes of the world, whether the bureaucrats are behind President Johnson in his policy of building bridges between the United States and the European Communist nations. The bombers obviously are trying to disrupt that policy.

REASON why the Croat-Slovenian ringleaders are well known to our secret police agencies is because they have been hired for political espionage and counter-propaganda in the past. The most notable case was that occurring when Marshal Tito and Nikita Khrushchev came to the United Nations in the fall of 1960, at which time several hundred Croats, Slovenes, Latvians, Lithuanians and Ukrainians living in the United States were corralled by the CIA from Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Youngstown to picket and demonstrate against the visitors.

They created such a furor, plus threats to the safety of Tito and Khrushchev, that extra New York police were called on day and night duty. Subsequently the city of New York submitted a bill to the federal government of \$3 million for extra police protection.

SINCE federal money was used through the CIA to stir up the trouble in the first place, and federal money was used to calm the trouble, the taxpayers got nicked both going and coming. However, since Central Intelligence is not subject to congressional investigation, the taxpayers are helpless.

The fact that Slav expatriates have been paid by the U.S. government undoubtedly gives them a feeling of immunity that contributed to the multiple bombings which occurred over the weekend.

The reason why the weekend bombings will be viewed as such an important test of Johnson's No. 1 foreign policy — relaxing East-West tensions — is that Yugoslavia has relaxed them more than any other Communist nation.

THE Yugoslavs long ago encouraged American tourist travel. Passport visas are now a mere matter of routine. About every third Yugoslav you meet has either worked in the steel mills of Pennsylvania or Ohio, or else has a relative there. Eighty per cent of Yugoslav farmland is owned by small farmers. All the retail trade is privately operated. Only heavy industry, shipyards, railroads and steamship lines are government operated. More and more, Yugoslavia has become independent of Moscow, has sent troops to maintain U.N. police operations.

Should the United States fail to make an example of the conspirators who carefully laid the plot to blow up the Yugoslav embassies and various consulates, it will not merely set back U.S. Yugoslav friendship. More important, it will be interpreted by the world that either Johnson is not serious about his No. 1 foreign policy, or else that he cannot control his own police agencies.